

II. REMARKS

Interview Summary

Applicant and applicant's representative wish to thank Examiner David Bochna for the courtesy extended during the telephone interview of January 7, 2009. During the interview, Examiner Bochna, applicant's representative Ralph A. Dowell, and applicant's local agent Robert H. Wilkes, discussed the cited reference, the embodiments of FIGS. 13, 17 and 20-21, and claim 41 in particular. Although agreement was not reached, it was believed by the participants in the interview that an inline normal swivel such as the example embodiment shown in FIG. 17 together with a hose assembly such as the example embodiment shown in FIG. 20 may provide the basis for moving forward expeditiously, while leaving open the possibility of continuing the discussion of the originally filed claims in one or more further applications.

Oath/Declaration

As mentioned initially, a Declaration of inventor Steven Knowles is submitted herewith to replace the unsigned and undated Declaration currently on file.

Abstract

The Abstract has been amended to correct those grammatical errors identified by the applicants. If the Examiner has any additional concerns with the Abstract then applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the agent for the applicants so that a further amendment can be made by the Examiner or submitted expeditiously by the applicants.

Claim Objections/Rejections

Claims 41-42, 44, 46-47 and 49-51 remain in the case. The amendments herein are made to expedite prosecution and not in response to any cited art. The Applicants reserve the ability to re-introduce any cancelled subject matter in this or any other application.

Claims 41, 42 and 46 are independent. Claims 41, 42, 46, 47, and 49 are currently amended. Claims 50 and 51 are new. Claim 44 is previously presented. Claims 1-40, 43, 45 and 48 are cancelled.

The Examiner's concern with regard to antecedent basis in claim 42 has been addressed. Claim 43 has been cancelled rendering moot the objection based upon potential duplication between claims 43 and 44.

In accordance with the interview discussion claims 41 and 42 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 45 and 48 which incorporate an inline normal swivel providing fluid communication between the hose and the first fitting such that the hose has a first conduit fluid path and the first fitting has a second conduit fluid path, and the first conduit fluid path is normal to the second conduit fluid path, and the inline normal swivel permits relative rotation of the hose about the first conduit fluid path and relative rotation of the first fitting about the first conduit fluid path, and also specify that the second fitting is offset from the hose by a distance sufficient to permit the hose and the injector to pass one another without bending the hose. The preamble has been amended to clarify the application to which the embodiment of FIG. 20 is directed.

FIG. 17 provides an example embodiment of an inline normal swivel in accordance with the limitations of claim 48. It is noted that the operation of the embodiment of FIG. 17 is discussed at page 19 lines 10-17 while the operation of inline normal swivels is further discussed at page 14 lines 14-18. The operation of the embodiment of FIG. 20 is discussed at page 21 line 20 through page 22 line 8. A combination of the embodiments of claim 17 and FIG. 20 as discussed during the interview is discussed with regard to FIG. 29 at page 23 lines 25-28.

It is noted that the cited reference of Foti provides a connector 20 that delivers gas to the range 22 and is so constructed and arranged that it facilitates moving the range for cleaning, maintenance and inspection without disconnecting the range from the supply line. The connector 20 comprises a hose assembly 50 and first and second swivel fittings 52, 54 at respective opposite hose assembly ends for connection to the supply line and to the range 22.

The swivel fitting 52 connects the hose assembly 50 to the supply line 24 so that the hose assembly end adjacent the supply line swivels relative to the supply line when the hose flexes and straightens during range movement. The swivel fitting 52 is illustrated in detail in FIGS. 5 and 6 as comprising a body 70 and a swivel member 72 carried by the body 70.

The swivel fitting 54 is constructed identically to the fitting 52. The axis 75 of the swivel fitting 54 is horizontal so the hose assembly end attached to the fitting 54 rotates in a vertical plane about the axis 75.

As the range is returned to its operating position (FIG. 3) the fitting 54 initially swivels as the hose droops and flexes under the influence of gravity. Slight hose twisting and horizontal separation between the inlet and supply lines creates sufficient torque to swivel the fitting 52 to its position illustrated by FIG. 3.

An alternative connector 120 is illustrated by FIGS. 7-9 of the drawings. The connector 120 extends between the supply line 24 and the range 20 and is in all material respects constructed like the connector 20 except for the swivel fitting 122 connected to the supply line. The swivel 122 is constructed and arranged to swivel about a horizontal axis 135 (FIGS. 8 and 9) as the range moves between its operating and cleaning positions. In the operating position (FIG. 9) the flexed connector 120 droops between the wall and range.

FIGS. 10 and 11 illustrate a commercial fryer 200 coupled to the gas supply line via a connector 220. The connector 220 employs a swivel fitting 52 connected to the supply line (as described above in reference to FIGS. 2-6), a swivel fitting 122 (constructed as described in reference to FIGS. 7-9) connected to the fryer, and a hose assembly 50 extending between the swivel fittings. The swivel fitting 122 is screwed onto the fryer inlet pipe so that the hose assembly end attached to the fitting 122 and disposed on the axis 137 rotates in a horizontal plane about the axis 135. When the fryer 200 is moved to its operating position adjacent the wall the hose assembly flexes and the swivel fittings 52, 122 pivot the hose assembly ends about the vertical axes 75, 135, respectively. The hose assembly flexes essentially horizontally because the fittings 52, 122 maintain the hose assembly end regions

horizontally oriented.

It is noted that in none of the embodiments of Foti is there described an injection hose assembly for connection between an air conditioning or refrigeration system and a manual injector having a fluid containing portion for injecting fluids into the air conditioning or refrigeration system. Nor is such an assembly described including an inline normal swivel providing fluid communication between the hose and the first fitting such that the hose has a first conduit fluid path and the first fitting has a second conduit fluid path, and the first conduit fluid path is normal to the second conduit fluid path, and the inline normal swivel permits relative rotation of the hose about the first conduit fluid path and relative rotation of the first fitting about the first conduit fluid path. Nor is there described that the second fitting is offset from the hose by a distance sufficient to permit the hose and the injector to pass one another without bending the hose

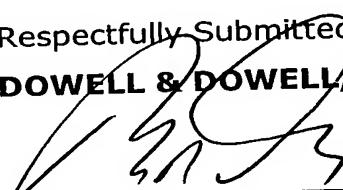
Accordingly, none of the embodiments in Foti discloses the invention as claimed in the pending claims. The claims presented herein are believed to distinguish over the art and to put the application in condition for allowance.

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. The Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that the objections and rejections be withdrawn. The Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,
DOWELL & DOWELL, P.C.

By:


Ralph A. Dowell,

Registration No. 26,868

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DOWELL & DOWELL, P. C.
Suite 406
2111 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone: (703) 415-2555
Facsimile: (703) 415-2559